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CLAIMS:

1. A method for inducing hypnosis in a patient in a partially immersive virtual reality environment comprising subjecting said patient to verbal suggestion and visual images shown by a two or three dimensional display device.

2. A method according to claim 1 further comprising subjecting said patient to additional auditory stimuli.

3. A method according to claim 1 wherein the two or three dimensional display device is a wide field-of-view display.

4. A method according to claim 3 wherein the wide field-of-view display is a projection screen.

5. A method according to claim 1 wherein the two or three dimensional display device is a head mounted display.

6. A method for inducing hypnosis in a patient in a fully immersive virtual reality environment comprising subjecting said patient to verbal suggestion and visual images shown by a two or three dimensional display device.

7. A method according to claim 6 further comprising subjecting said patient to additional auditory stimuli.

8. A method according to claim 6 wherein the two or three dimensional display device is a wide field-of-view display.

9. A method according to claim 8 wherein the wide field-of-view display is a projection screen.

10.   A method according to claim 6 wherein the two or three dimensional display device is a head mounted display.

11.   Use of hypnosis induced according to the method of claim 1 or 6 in the treatment of a psychosomatic disease in a human.

12.   Use according to claim 11 wherein the psychosomatic disease is irritable bowel syndrome, herpes simplex, headache or stomach cramps.

13.   Use of hypnosis induced according to the method of claim 1 or 6 in the treatment of a somatic disease in a human.

14.   Use according to claim 13 wherein the somatic disease is irritable bowel disease, arthritis, multiple sclerosis or cancer.

15.   Use of hypnosis induced according to the method of claim 1 or 6 in the treatment of a behavioural disorder in a human.

16.   Use according to claim 15 wherein the behavioural disorder is attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, post trauma distress disorder, postnatal depression, bulimia or obesity.

17   Use of hypnosis induced according to the method of claim 1 or 6 in the treatment of a phobia in a human.

18   Use according to claim 17 wherein the phobia is fear of dogs, spiders, snakes, flying, heights or ships.

19   Use of hypnosis induced according to the method of claim 1 or 6 in palliative care.

20.   Use according to claim 19 wherein the palliative care is used to treat grief or fear of

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death.

21.   Use of hypnosis induced according to the method of claim 1 or 6 in the treatment of trauma or physical injury in humans.

22.   Use according to claim 21 wherein the trauma or physical injury is burns, post surgical wounds, puncture wounds or ulcers.

23.   Use of hypnosis induced according to the method of claim 1 or 6 in the treatment of mood disorders in humans.

24.   Use according to claim 23 wherein the mood disorder is anxiety, panic disorders or depression.

25.   Use of hypnosis induced according to the method of claim 1 or 6 in the treatment of and/or management of pain in humans.

26.   Use of hypnosis induced according to the method of claim 1 or 6 with or without chemical agents in anaesthetizing a human for surgical procedures.

27.   Use of hypnosis induced according to the method of claim 1 or 6 to alleviate boredom.

28.   Use of hypnosis induced in accordance with the method of claim 1 or 6 with or without chemical agents to assist with childbirth.

29.   Use of hypnosis induced according to the method of claim 1 or 6 to improve skill development in sport, work or any other physical endeavour.

30.   Use of hypnosis induced according to the method of claim 1 or 6 to motivate humans involved in sport, work, war or any other endeavour that requires motivational

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modification.